U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Hurricane Katrina Talking Points
15 September 2005

DAILY MESSAGES – Thursday, 15 September 2005

1. The Overall Corps Mission

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is continuing to work primarily in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, carrying out a wide variety of missions in response to Hurricane Katrina. In addition to our efforts to get the water out of New Orleans we are also providing services throughout the affected areas to include providing ice, water and temporary power; as well as debris removal and temporary roofing.

Our three priorities are:
First, supporting efforts to save lives and find people,
Second, sustaining lives (water and shelter) and
Third, setting conditions for recovery (cleanup, restoring infrastructure and navigation).

Corps employees are empowered to make decisions regarding hurricane relief support on the spot as long as the decision is lawful, ethical and the employee is willing to be accountable for the action. This has helped keep things moving in a time of difficult communication.

Currently we have nearly 2,200 Corps employees deployed in the affected areas and our missions are totaling $2.9 billion, of which more than $2.8 billion are missions from FEMA and more than $36 million are for Flood Control Coastal Emergencies.

Other Mission Statistics:

- **More than 3,674 truckloads of water have been delivered**
- **More than 6,260 truckloads of ice have been delivered**
- **Assessed 702 generators and installed 172 generators**
- **More than 2,131 temporary roofs installed; 51,000 projects to take place**
- **More than 1,600 temporary housing units have been staged in Louisiana**
- **Almost 1,900 temporary housing units have been staged in Mississippi**
- **More than one million cubic yards of debris has been removed**

2. Un-Watering Progress in New Orleans

Working with the city of New Orleans and private contractors, the Army Corps of Engineers continues to make steady progress on pumping out floodwaters from the city of New Orleans and immediate vicinity into Lake Ponchartrain. The

number of pumps that are operational at any given time is continually changing. **For example, today, we pumped 7 billion gallons of water out of the city. That's down from earlier this week because currently some of the main pumping stations are running out of water to pump.**

Original estimates for completing the un-watering of the city have recently been revised. Several factors have contributed to this revision: improved pumping capacity and efficiency, additional pumps, intentional breaches in the levee system and better field data and hydrological modeling. As of today, we estimate the overall un-watering effort will be completed in early to mid-October. A breakdown by parish is provided:

New Orleans Parish, the week of October 2

New Orleans East Parish, the week of September 30

St. Bernard Parish, the week of September 20 (except for Chalmette Extension area – the week of September 30)

Plaquemines East Parish, the week of September 30, and

Plaquemines West, the week of October 18.

The estimates are based on normal seasonal rainfall.

It is important to note that the un-watering effort will remove most, but not all the water. There will be some isolated pockets of water that will remain. However, these pockets of water should not hamper recovery efforts such as debris removal, structural assessments and restoration of critical services.

4. Contracting/Debris Removal Contract

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in concert with FEMA has awarded (Sep 15) a total of 4 competitive contracts for the debris removal mission in support of Hurricane Katrina.
The contracts have been awarded to the following companies:

- **Ashbritt, Inc. of Pompano Beach, Florida**
- **Environmental Chemical Corporation of Burlingame, California**
- **Ceres Environmental Inc. of Brooklyn Park, Minnesota**
- **Philips and Jordan, Inc. of Zephyrhills, Florida**

The contract work areas include the following locations: Ashbritt, Inc. for the state of Mississippi, and the remaining three contractors will cover work in the state of Lousiana.

Contract Amounts:
The amount awarded for each fixed-price contract is up to $500 million a piece, with the option of an additional $500 million.

Contract Requirements:

The terms for all four contracts require the contractors to give a preference to those organizations, firms or individuals residing or doing business primarily in the area affected by Hurricane Katrina.

All contractors are required to submit a sub-contracting plan with the goal of including the following participation: 73.5 percent for Small business, 3 percent for Service-disabled veterans, 3.2 percent for Small HUB-Zone concerns, 10.6 percent for Small Disadvantaged business, and 11 percent for Small Women-owned business.

Award Criteria:
Contracting awards were given based on the following criteria: past performance, technical capability, ability to provide sub-contracting goals for small and disadvantaged businesses, ability to respond, and price.

Award Vehicle:
A Request-for-Proposal – Best Market Value

Announcement Period:
The Corps issued an open announcement for these contracts through the Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District web site. The Corps shortened the time available to respond to the announcement in light of the urgent need for debris removal services; however, despite the shortened time period, the Corps received 22 proposals.

Solicitation Process:
The solicitation process for the debris removal contracts was both open and competitive, although limited due to the urgency of the emergency situation. The term "limited" is simply defined as a solicitation period that is less than the 45-day bidding period. Open bidding includes both large and small businesses.

Contract Terms:
Terms of the contract will expire 30 September 2006, provided capacity is still available.

5. Future Funding

Recently, Congress approved a large funding package for hurricane relief with $400 million for Corps missions separate from our FEMA ones. Public Law 109-062, the second, emergency supplemental appropriation to Hurricane Katrina, contains $400 million for the Corps of Engineers. Of that amount, $200 million is for navigation work in the South Atlantic and Gulf regions and $200 million is for flood control and coastal emergencies. Those funds are being used for damage assessments and immediate repairs to the levees in New Orleans as well as

assessments and preparations for long-term repairs for flood damage reduction there. The President and Congress are currently considering additional funding to assist in the relief and recovery efforts following Hurricane Katrina.

At the request of the Administration, the Corps of Engineers is providing input regarding the restoration of flood damage reduction infrastructure as well as the inland and deep draft navigation system.

6. Water Quality Issues Related to Pumping Water into Lake Ponchartrain
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency are working hard to protect both human and environmental health during the unwatering of New Orleans and surrounding parishes. The unwatering is a coordinated effort of the Corps, the Environmental Protection Agency, Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, the Sewage and Water Boards, and contractors to ensure impacts upon human and environmental well-being are minimized to the greatest extent possible.

The pumping of floodwaters from the city core will have unavoidable, currently un-quantified ecological impacts. As a result of Katrina, the local ecology will have its share of unavoidable impacts. We don't know yet how the balance of the cleanup and reconstruction efforts will impact Lake Ponchartrain, the Mississippi River and the Gulf. We are putting a priority on working with our state and federal partners as they collect water quality and sediment data, as we take proactive mitigation measures such as installing booms and aeration devices, and as we take additional measures when needed based on new data.

The Environmental Protection Agency is testing and monitoring floodwaters. Sorbent boom with sorbent skirts have been placed at all pump intakes to capture floating oils to prevent their discharge. Booms are also being installed at discharge points into Lake Pontchartrain to provide additional levels of protection. While the dissolved oxygen levels of the floodwaters being discharged into Lake Pontchartrain currently exceed minimum state requirements, 50 aerators are being installed by Shaw Group into pump outlets to provide additional oxygenation.

EPA and DEQ have approved a Corps plan to pump the lowest areas of floodwaters from St. Bernard Parish into the Mississippi River using temporary pumps. This operation will pump a maximum of 500 cubic feet per second of floodwaters into the river which will be effectively diluted by the 200,000 CFS flow of the Mississippi.The Louisiana DEQ is setting up a monitoring station upriver from the Belle Chasse water intake in the Mississippi River to ensure no hazardous materials enter the intake.

The Corps continues to work with EPA, state and local authorities to lessen the impact of unwatering the final flows, and to plan to manage potentially contaminated residuals following first flush of the region following rainfall.

7. Ice and Water Missions

The Corps of Engineers, under its mission responsibilities in the National Response Plan, orders ice and water for transport to disaster victims under the direction of FEMA. The Corps has awarded advance contracts with commodities suppliers which it activates through task orders when a disaster is anticipated or has occurred. Ice and water are delivered by the contractors to specified staging areas for further distribution at the appropriate time to points closer to disaster victims. Final distribution to individual victims is accomplished through local governments. The National Ice Mission is managed out of the Corps' Charleston, SC District, and the National Water Mission is managed by the Wilmington, NC District.

Trucks contracted by USACE to transport commodities, principally water and ice, originate in locations all over the country. It happens more ice and water was ordered than was necessary, creating a surplus. The trucks travel to various Mobilization Centers (Mob Centers) where the commodities are further distributed to states and areas needing them. If these Mob Centers are full (due to over stock) the trucks are either redirected other locations where there is a need, or turned back to storage. Unavoidably, the trucks sometimes sit idle awaiting orders.

No new commodities have been ordered for Katrina since September 5. Redirect orders for commodities in the pipeline continue to be received, but are decreasing in number and frequency. We will continue to stand by as further needs may be identified for Katrina or subsequent storm events, such as Hurricane Ophelia.

In the present flux situation, many are being positioned toward the Eastern seaboard in preparation for Hurricane/Tropical Storm Ophelia. The current situation is that sufficient ice and water is available for Hurricane Katrina relief and any future storms during the 2005 hurricane season.

USACE SUPPORT TO HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY
General Mission Talking Points
Thursday, 15 September 2005

Discovering the Breach
We received an unconfirmed report Monday morning, 29 August 2005, from local firemen that there was breach at the 17th Street Canal. Due to its potential

significance the District Commander Col Richard Wagenaar, who had weathered the storm in New Orleans, attempted to view the site on Monday afternoon. He was unable to get to the area due to high water, power lines and debris. In their attempts to get to the site, Corps officials encountered significant flooding at the I-10/610 split. Based on water height at that location it was obvious that significant flooding had occurred. They were able to validate the levee breach on Tuesday, and they began implementing a plan to fix the breach

Receiving FOIA Requests
The Corps has received a number of Freedom of Information Act requests from news media over the past several days. The requests have been for inspection reports, evacuation plans, contracts, email and correspondence. We understand the public's need for information about the Corps of Engineers capabilities, projects and performance in responding to national emergencies. Due to the hurricane and flooding in New Orleans, we are unable to access our files in the New Orleans District Office. In the interim we will process these requests for the records that are here in the DC headquarters.

Hurricane Preparedness
We are continually monitoring the weather and are prepared to respond, if needed, should another hurricane approach the United States. Although we have more **than 2,200 people** deployed in support of Hurricane Katrina, we are reconstituting our response capability and have many more employees prepared for any other major storms or other natural disasters. We continue to support our military missions in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as supporting the civil works and military programs missions at home.

Contracting

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses full and open competition to award standing contracts for emergency disaster response to provide services we know we will need, such as debris removal, roofing, ice and water supply. Federal agencies can award non-competitive contracts for specific work not covered by the existing contracts when an emergency demands the fastest possible **response - such as plugging the breaches in New Orleans' levee and other recovery operations. New Orleans District issued most of the Corps' non-competitive contracts immediately after Hurricane** Katrina to firms that could quickly bring in equipment to address critical recovery operations. The Corps used limited competitions to speed the award process for time-critical follow-on tasks in cases where the service provider needs to have a proven track record for completing difficult tasks. The repair of New Orleans' unique system of levees, pumps and canals is an example of work awarded in limited competition. Emergency contracts have been critical to the ongoing success in drawing down Hurricane Katrina flood waters.

Finding Human Remains during Work

The US Army Corps of Engineers is sympathetic to the tragic loss of life that occurred in New Orleans and throughout other parts of Louisiana and Mississippi as a result of Hurricane Katrina. As Corps personnel continue recovery operations throughout the affected areas, they may come discover human remains. If this is the case, Corps personnel will handle the remains in a dignified and respectful manner and will contact the appropriate authorities.

Navigation

The Mississippi River has now been declared open by the U.S. Coast Guard, all the way from the Head of Passes, North. The Head of Passes is very far south. That's the part of the river that's just above Southwest Pass. So right now, the only part of the river that's operating under any restrictions at all is just that little part from the main stem of the Mississippi River channel through the Southwest Pass out into the Gulf. That section is limited to daylight traffic. The USGS continues restoring Aids to Navigation (AToN) to allow night transits, giving first priority to the AToN's that the pilots say are most needed.

The Gulf Intracoastal Waterway is open from Texas to Florida using Baptiste Collette, as an alternative to the IHNC. All draft restrictions on Baptiste Collette and GIWW from IHNC eastward are removed. Belle Chase Hwy Bridge remains down and inoperable. Algiers Canal has a 40 foot height restriction as a result. The Belle Chase RR Bridge is in the up and locked position.

Inner Harbor Navigation **Canal (IHNC) Lock is operational but not operating due to bridge closures and sunken barges. The contracting firm of Boh Brothers has removed two sunken vessels and cleared debris. The bridge is locked in up position. USCG has imposed a safety zone for the duration of the removal. With USCG permission on a case-by-case basis, some tows providing gasoline or in support of relief missions have transited the lock.**

Mississippi River Gulf Outlet is closed to deep draft vessels. Inland portion will serve as an alternative route to GIWW due to closure of IHNC for shallow draft vessels. Captain of the Port of New Orleans has declared MRGO available to draft of 22'.
Preliminary surveys indicate controlling depth of 27'.

Port Fourchon sustained significant damage, but is operating to a limited extent. Sunken vessels are not blocking the channel.
Corps preliminary surveys are under way for Atchafalaya, Houma, and other channels. NOAA is continuing its surveys of the Mississippi River to verify Corps centerline survey results.

Tiger Pass is shoaled to less than 6'. This channel, authorized to 14' provides a shorter route for vessels traveling to the west from the Mississippi River near the

mouth. Primarily used by fishing and supply vessels. The Corps is preparing contract to dredge.

GWOT effect on Mission Capability
The Corps' 35,000 employees have a long history of volunteerism and dedication to assisting our nation in times of need, both at home and abroad. Our overall capability to respond to this and other disasters at home is not diminished by our support to the Global War on Terror.

Rebuilding New Orleans
At this time, the Corps is focused on its missions of disaster relief, recovery and unwatering New Orleans and surrounding areas. Local and state officials will lead the future discussions for rebuilding New Orleans.

Corps Team in New Orleans

During and after disasters, the Corps of Engineers “victim district team concept” is often put into place. Colonel Richard Wagenaar, commander and district engineer of the New Orleans District, has shifted his attention to reconstituting the district, and Colonel Duane Gapinski of the Rock Island District has taken the lead on un-watering the city of New Orleans. The district has now accounted for nearly every one of its 1193 employees. Many employees are available and waiting to return to work and 75-100 are actually working at the emergency operations centers. The plan has three phases: (1) immediately place essential staff at existing offices in Vicksburg, Lafayette and St. Louis or by telework; (2) place other employees when space and IM/IT is available in Vicksburg, Jackson, Clinton, MS, Lafayette, Baton Rouge and other sites or by telework; and (3) transition to the New Orleans office when the facility is available.

Corps Team in Louisiana

The Army Corps of Engineers’ Task Force Hope in Louisiana has approximately 525 Corps personnel working from the Memphis District Emergency Operations Center in Memphis and the Louisiana Recovery Field Office (RFO) in Baton Rouge. The RFO has relocated to its new site at 1900 N. Lobdell, Baton Rouge, LA.

Our Task Force Hope Team’s morale remains high on the ground as we continue to support power, roofing, and debris removal missions, with each of these mission increasing, while the ice and water missions are decreasing. An equal priority is the deployment and integration of Quality Assurance (QAs) Personnel in the Area of Operations, including the Bureau of Reclamation Qualit Assurance professionals that are in-bound.

(1) Water

Numbers of trucks are no longer being published. There are two Corp PRT members currently working at the Memphis Depot Business Park to help track, tag and direct the ice deliveries entering the Depot and current trucks leaving the Depot to Americold storage. The Memphis EOC has also provided additional logistic personal to work the night shift at the Depot.

(2) Ice
Total ice received at Beauregard and Barksdale is 1979 trucks.

(3) Debris
Total debris collected to date: 326,720 cubic yards.

(4) Temporary roofing (Operation Blue Roof)
Total number of Rights of Entry collected to date: 5,235
Total number of roofs installed to date: 915

(5) Power
Total number of power assessments requested: 331
Total number of power assessments completed: 299
Total number of generators installations: 86
Current number of generators installed: 71
In support of FEMA, the Corps of Engineers will be assessing and repairing public facilities (schools, libraries, fire stations, etc.) for the state of Louisiana. This mission is estimated at $200 million.

Corps Team in Mississippi

The Army Corps of Engineers' Task Force Hope Mississippi has about 400 personnel from around the nation focused on recovery operations in the Mississippi Recovery Field Office (RFO). This number could eventually reach 1000 at peak recovery as the Vicksburg District sets up a district-size team to execute assigned FEMA missions.

The Corps mission in Mississippi is now heavily focused on recovery operations as requirements for power, water and ice support have dropped significantly with local systems coming back on line.

(1) Debris Removal
FEMA estimates that there are currently about 18 to 20 million cubic yards of debris in the hurricane impacted area of Mississippi. This equates to 200 football fields piled 50 feet high. It will take about 8 months to remove it from the streets, and roughly a year and a half to completely dispose of it.

Right now we are moving roughly 100,000 cubic yards of debris per day, but we are ramping up and expect that to increase. Removal is underway in 6 counties (Jackson, Jones, Stone, Forrest, George and Hancock).We are expecting additional requests from cities and counties. Each county or municipality must agree to USACE debris removal support before it can be received.

The Corps of Engineers is not alone in this process. Disposal efforts are closely coordinated with the local community and the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and the U.S. Coast Guard among others.

The EPA and Coast Guard are working on targeting large scale hazardous materials, while the Corps is working on clearing debris on the roads and selectively removing hazardous materials as they are discovered. Hazardous materials that end up at our reduction sites inadvertently will be culled out and placed in separate containment areas. The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality monitors our work and issues permits for reduction sites.

(2) Temporary Roofing
Over 5200 requests for Operation Blue Roof have been received in the past few days. Over 200 roofs were repaired in the past 24 hours. More than 100 crews are now working. Estimates are that 23,000 roof repairs will be required. About 1000 work orders are about to be issued to contractors.

At peak, several hundred roofs per day will be repaired. Plastic staging operations are in Hattiesburg and Gulfport. **Operation Blue Roof Sign Up Centers** are now open in Jackson, Harrison, Hancock, Forrest, Stone, Lamar, Marion, Jefferson Davis, and Pearl River counties.

(3) Temporary Housing
Temporary housing is being handled using a national/regional approach through the FEMA Housing Area Command.

(4) Technical Assistance
RFO technical experts are providing technical assistance as request from the state through FEMA.

(5) Water and Waste Water Restoration
Forty-six systems are known to need assessment. We have begun assessment of the state's prioritized list. A 10-12 person team from the Environmental Protection Agency will join the USACE team at Keesler in supporting this FEMA mission.

(6)Temporary Classroom Sites & Emergency Facilities
USACE has received a mission assignment to place approximately 450 temporary classrooms on school property in the impacted areas. This mission also tasks the Corps provide portable buildings for public facilities such as fire

stations, police stations, and emergency centers. Current focus is coordinating with the state to identify and prioritize structures.

End